I claim:

1. A tester for checking electrical continuity of a wire, the tester being adapted for use with an existing continuity checker having a rod-type pointed probe, the tester comprising:

a pliers tool including first and second levers pivoted together, and defining first and second jaws, respectively, and also first and second handles, respectively; the first jaw including a protrusion adapted to pierce insulation on the wire and make contact with an electrical conductor inside the wire, and the second jaw including a mating pocket adapted to receive and hold the wire while the protrusion is piercing the wire; and

a universal connector attached to a side of the first lever and electrically coupled to the protrusion, the universal connector defining an elongated cavity adapted to loosely receive the probe of the existing continuity checker so that different probes of unknown diameter and length can be engaged, and the universal connector including a retainer spring adapted to slidingly engage and bias the probe toward a side of the cavity, with at least one of the first lever and the retainer spring being in electrical contact with the probe, the retainer spring being adapted to frictionally engage the probe in a lateral direction to positively retain the probe within the cavity so that the continuity tester and the pliers tool can be manipulated as a unit for one-handed operation by a repairman; whereby the tester is adapted for secure attachment to the existing continuity checker and is adapted for one-handed manipulation and use by the repairman to test continuity of the wire.

2. The tester defined in claim 1, wherein the first lever is made of a conductive material so that the first jaw and first handle are electrically connected.

3. The tester defined in claim 1, wherein the universal connector is attached to a side surface of the first handle.

4. The tester defined in claim 3, wherein the universal connector is positioned separate from the first jaw and makes electrical contact with the protrusion through conducting material of the first lever.

5. The tester defined in claim 1, including a first sleeve that telescopingly engages the first jaw and includes the protrusion.

6. The tester defined in claim 5, wherein the universal connector is attached to and extends from a side of the first sleeve.

7. The tester defined in claim 5, wherein the first sleeve is tubular and adapted to telescopingly engage the first jaw and frictionally engage and be retained thereon.

8. The tester defined in claim 7, wherein the first sleeve includes a releasable retainer for retaining the first sleeve on the first jaw.

9. The tester defined in claim 7, wherein the first sleeve includes a tab that snap-attaches to and frictionally engages the first jaw.

10. The tester defined in claim 9, wherein the retainer includes a tab adapted to frictionally engage a notch on the first jaw at a rear of teeth located on a flat surface on the jaw.

11. The tester defined in claim 1, including a first sleeve that telescopingly engages a side of the first handle and includes the universal connector in a position beside a handle where the universal connector is adapted to minimize a combined length of the pliers tool and an existing continuity tester engaging the universal connector.

12. A kit for making a continuity tester apparatus from a pliers tool to check electrical continuity of a wire, the tester apparatus being adapted for use with an existing continuity tester having a probe, the pliers tool having first and second levers pivoted together, the first and second levers defining first and second jaws, and also first and second handles, respectively, with the first lever being conductive so that the first jaw and first handle are electrically connected, the kit comprising:

a first member adapted to engage the first jaw, including a protrusion for piercing insulation on the wire and for making contact with an electrical conductor inside the wire;

a second member adapted to engage the second jaw, including a pocket for receiving and holding the wire while the protrusion is piercing the wire; and

a universal connector defining an elongated cavity adapted to loosely receive the probe, the universal connector including a retainer spring adapted to slidingly engage and bias the probe toward a side of the cavity, with the spring being strong enough to frictionally engage the probe in a lateral direction to retain the probe within the cavity and join the continuity tester to the pliers tool for manipulation therewith as a unit for one-handed operation by a repairman.

13. The kit defined in claim 12, wherein the first member includes opposing portions that are adapted to frictionally engage the first jaw.

14. The kit defined in claim 13, wherein the first and second members each are constructed to telescopingly engage the first jaw and the second jaw, respectively.

15. The kit defined claim 12, wherein the first and second members are tubular and include a flat side to non-rotatably engage the first and second jaws.

16. The kit defined in claim 12, wherein the first and second members include a tab for frictionally and removably engaging the first and second jaws, respectively.

17. The kit defined in claim 12, wherein the universal connector is formed as part of and integrally attached to the first member.

18. The kit defined in claim 17, wherein the universal connector comprises a tubular member extending laterally from a side of the first member.

19. The kit defined in claim 12, including a third member, the first member, second member, and third member being tubular and shaped to releasably engage and make electrical contact with the first jaw, the second jaw, and handle, the universal connector being on the third member.

20. The kit defined in claim 12, wherein the universal connector includes a retaining spring electrically connected to the protrusion on the first member.

21. An apparatus for making a continuity tester from a pliers tool and a continuity checker to check electrical continuity of a wire, comprising:

a first sleeve adapted to telescopingly slip onto a free end of the first jaw, the first sleeve including a pointed protrusion that faces laterally and that is adapted to pierce insulation on the wire and make contact with an electrical conductor inside the wire, and including a resilient first retainer adapted to snappingly frictionally engage the first jaw; and

a second sleeve adapted to telescopingly slip onto the second jaw, including a pocket facing laterally and that is adapted to receive and hold the wire while the protrusion is piercing the wire, and including a resilient second retainer adapted to snappingly frictionally engage the second jaw; and

a connector for electrically connecting to the pointed protrusion and that is adapted to operably engage a continuity tester for checking a continuity of the electrical conductor inside the wire.

22. The apparatus defined in claim 21, wherein the connector is attached to the second sleeve and includes a universal connector adapted to be electrically connected to the pointed protrusion, the connector defining an elongated cavity that is over-sized and adapted to loosely receive the probe.

23. The apparatus defined in claim 21, including a third sleeve adapted to slip onto a free end of the first handle, the third sleeve including the connector and being adapted to be electrically connected to the protrusion.

24. The apparatus defined in claim 21, wherein the connector includes a retainer spring adapted to slidingly engage and bias the probe toward a side of the cavity, with the retainer spring being electrically in contact with the probe and with the retainer spring being strong enough to frictionally engage the probe in a lateral direction to retain the probe within the cavity and join the continuity tester to the pliers tool for manipulation therewith as a unit for one-handed operation by a repairman.